

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A process for producing stable cell clones or lines of transgenic plants or animals, which produce a protein of interest, which comprises introducing into cells a recombinant DNA molecule comprising

(a) a transcriptional promoter;

(b) a first plant-expressible gene linked to said transcriptional promoter;

(c) a cDNA sequence element designated an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), which is located 3' to the first plant-expressible gene, whereby said IRES is a eukaryotic, plant-specific IRES that originates from a plant virus having a plus-sense single-stranded RNA genome of plant viral origin;

(d) a second plant-expressible gene located 3' to said IRES such that the second gene is placed under the translational control of said IRES, wherein said first plant-expressible gene or said second plant-expressible gene is a selectable marker.

20. (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA molecule comprising:

(a) a transcriptional promoter;

(b) a first plant-expressible gene linked to said transcriptional promoter;

(c) a cDNA sequence element designated as an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), which is located 3' to the first plant-expressible gene and wherein said IRES is a eukaryotic, plant-specific IRES that originates from a plant virus having a plus-sense single-stranded RNA genome of plant viral origin; and

(d) a second plant-expressible gene, located 3' to said IRES such that the second plant expressible gene is under translational control of the IRES;

wherein said first plant-expressible gene or said second plant-expressible gene is a selectable marker.

21. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said IRES is a tobamovirus movement protein IRES (IRES_{MP}).

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said IRES is a tobamovirus coat protein IRES (IRES_{CP}).

25. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said protein of interest is selected from the group consisting of selectable markers, toxins, hormones, proteases and viral proteins.

30. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said selectable marker confers antibiotic resistance or herbicide resistance.

31. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein the transcriptional promoter is a constitutive or inducible plant-specific promoter.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein the recombinant DNA molecule additionally comprises at a 3'-position of said second plant-expressible gene an IRES, which may be the same or different, and an additional gene encoding a desired polypeptide.

34. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said process provides for coordinated expression of multiple polypeptides or several enzymes of a biosynthetic pathway.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A eukaryotic cell transformed with a recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 20.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant containing the recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 20.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said IRES is derived from a crucifer-infecting tobamovirus (crTMV).

41. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 20, which additionally comprises in 3' position of said second plant expressible gene a different or the same IRES, and a gene encoding a desired polypeptide.

42. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule containing an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) of a movement protein gene of a plant virus having a plus-sense single-stranded RNA genome.

43. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42, which is derived from a crucifer tobamovirus.

44. (New) The process according to claim 19, wherein the plant virus having a plus-sense single-stranded RNA genome is a tobamovirus.

45. (New) The recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 20, wherein the plant virus having a plus-sense single-stranded RNA genome is a tobamovirus.

46. (New) The eukaryotic cell according to claim 36, wherein the component (c) is a cDNA sequence element designated as an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), which is located 3' to the first plant-expressible gene and wherein said IRES is a eukaryotic, plant-specific IRES that originates from a plant tobamovirus.

47. (New) The transgenic plant according to claim 38, wherein the component (c) is a cDNA sequence element designated as an internal ribosome entry site (IRES), which is located 3' to the first plant-expressible gene and wherein said IRES is a eukaryotic, plant-specific IRES that originates from a plant tobamovirus.

48. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42, which is derived from a tobamovirus.